<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A digital content distribution <u>system,</u> ~~system comprising~~ <u>comprising:</u>

a right management server and a user terminal which are connected to each other via a communication network, ~~said right management server issuing, to the user terminal, license information for permitting a user to use a content, and said user terminal using the content based on the license information obtained from the right management server,~~

<u>wherein said user terminal includes:</u>

<u>a storing unit configured to store license information which includes first condition information and second condition information, the first condition information indicating a first usage condition for the use of a content, and the second condition information being information for limiting the first usage condition;</u>

<u>a judging unit configured to judge whether or not the license information is valid, by checking whether or not a limited first condition is satisfied, the limited first condition being the first condition having been limited according to the second condition information;</u>

<u>a using unit configured to use the content according to the limited first condition when the license information is judged to be valid;</u>

<u>a requesting unit that is configured to (i) send the license information including both of the first condition information and the second condition information to said right management server, when the license information is judged to be invalid, and (ii) receive an updated license information from said right management server, the updated license information including the first condition information included in the license information and a second condition information having been updated by said right management server; and</u>

~~wherein the~~ <u>said</u> right management server includes:

<u>an updating unit configured to (i) receive the license information from said user terminal, and (ii) update the second condition information of the license information to thereby generate the updated license information; and</u>

<u>a sending unit configured to send the updated license information to said user terminal.</u>

~~a first condition generation unit operable to generate a first condition based on a content~~

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use right owned by the user, said first condition being a condition for permitting the user to use the content;

a second condition generation unit operable to generate a second condition that indicates a part or all of the use permitted under the first condition and indicates whether the license information is valid or invalid based on a logical product of the first condition and said second condition;

a license generation unit operable to generate the license information including the first condition and the second condition in response to a license obtainment request from the user terminal; and

a license issuance unit operable to issue the generated license information to the user terminal so that said user terminal obtains said license information, and

the user terminal includes:

a license obtainment requesting unit operable to request the right management server to issue the license information so as to obtain said license information;

an invalidity judgment unit operable to judge whether the license information is invalid or not based on the first condition and the second condition included in the obtained license information; and

a using unit operable to provide the use of the content to the user when it is judged that the license information is not invalid.

2.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1, wherein the user terminal further includes a license information returning unit operable to return the license information to the right management server when it is judged that the license information is invalid, and the said right management server further includes:

a license issuing unit configured to issue the license information according to a request from said user terminal, and

said user terminal further includes:

an issuing request unit configured to request said right management server for issuing the license information, and

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the storing unit stores a license issued by said rights management server.

~~a return acceptance unit operable to accept, from the user terminal, return of the license information which is judged to be invalid;~~

~~an invalidation cancellation unit operable to cancel invalidation of the license information by updating the second condition included in the returned license information to a new value; and~~

~~a reissuance unit operable to reissue, to the user terminal, the license information of which invalidation is cancelled.~~

3.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 2,

wherein ~~the~~ said user terminal further includes a history information storage unit ~~operable~~ configured to generate history information indicating a history of the use of the content when ~~said~~ the content is used by the using unit, and store the generated history information, and

the ~~license information returning~~ requesting unit is configured to ~~transmits~~ transmit the license information to be returned, together with the stored history information, to ~~the~~ said right management server.

4.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 3,

wherein the second condition is represented by a maximum allowable number of uses of the content which is counted when ~~said~~ the content is used after a date when the license information is issued.

5.   **(Original)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 3,

wherein the second condition is represented by an expiry date of a validity period of the content which starts on a date when the license information is issued.

6.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 3,

wherein the second condition is represented by a subset of the first condition, ~~said~~ subset of the first condition being either a maximum allowable number of uses which is not more than a

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maximum allowable number of uses indicated in the first condition or an expiry date which is earlier than an expiry date indicated in the first condition.

7.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 2,
~~wherein~~ the ~~invalidity judgment~~ judging unit judges whether or not the license information is ~~invalid or not~~ valid based on the updated second condition included in the ~~reissued~~ license information received from the management server.

8.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1, wherein

each of the first condition and the second condition indicates a value of a use right for using the content, and
the using unit includes a condition updating unit ~~operable~~ configured to update each of the first condition and the second condition to a new value obtained by subtracting a value of ~~the~~ a use right which is consumed under the provision of the use, every time the content is used.

9.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1,
wherein the license information includes an item of a usage amount into which the number of actual uses of the content is recorded with a default value being 0, when the content is used based on the license information,
the second condition indicates a value which is a number of permitted uses of the content;
~~invalidity judgment~~ the judging unit judges whether or not the license information is ~~invalid~~ valid ~~or not~~ by comparing between a value ~~of~~ indicated by the second condition and a value of the item of the usage amount, both of which are included in said license information, and
the using unit includes a usage amount calculation unit ~~operable~~ configured to increment the number of actual uses recorded in the item of the usage amount by an amount of an actual use, every time the content is used.

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10.   **(Original)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1,

wherein the license information includes at least a license information ID for identifying the license information, the first condition, the second condition and a content decryption key for decrypting an encrypted content which is permitted to be used based on the license information.

11.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1,
~~wherein the second condition generation~~ the updating unit includes a rule storage unit ~~operable~~ configured to previously store a rule for generating the second condition, and

the ~~second condition generation~~ updating unit ~~generates~~ updates the second condition according to the rule stored in the rule storage unit.

12.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 11,
wherein the rule is defined for each use right of each content, and

the ~~second condition generation~~ updating unit ~~generates~~ updates the second condition for each license information according to the rule.

13.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 11,
wherein the rule is defined uniformly for any use right, and

the ~~second condition generation~~ updating unit ~~generates~~ updates the second condition uniformly for any license information according to the rule.

14.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1,
wherein

the ~~invalidity judgment~~ judging unit judges whether or not the license information is ~~invalid or not~~ valid every time power is applied to the user terminal.

15.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 14,
wherein the second condition indicates maximum allowable number, the maximum

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allowable number indicating maximum number allowed for using the content, and

the ~~invalidity judgment~~ judging unit judges that the license information is invalid when the maximum allowable number ~~of uses in~~ indicated by the second condition is 0.

16.   **(Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 14, wherein the license information includes an item of a usage amount into which the number of actual uses of the content is recorded with a default value being 0, when the content is used based on the license information,

the second condition indicates a value which is a number of permitted uses of the content,

the ~~invalidity judgment~~ judging unit judges that the license information is invalid when ~~a~~ the value of an item of a usage amount included in said license information is not less than ~~a~~ the value indicated by ~~of~~ the second condition~~, said usage amount being an item into which the number of actual uses of the content is recorded with a default value being 0 when the content is used based on the license information~~.

17.   **(Currently Amended)** A right management ~~server~~ server, comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive license information from a user terminal which uses a content according to the license information;

an updating unit configured to update second condition information of the license information thereby generating updated license information, the license information including the first condition information and the second condition information, the first condition information indicating a first usage condition for using a content, and the second condition information being information for limiting the first usage condition; and

a sending unit configured to send the updated license information to a user terminal.

~~connected with a user terminal via a communication network for issuing license information to the user terminal so that the user terminal obtains the license information, said license information permitting a user to use a content, said server comprising:~~

~~a first condition generation unit operable to generate a first condition based on a content use right owned by the user, said first condition being a condition for permitting the user to use~~

the content;

a second condition generation unit operable to generate a second condition that indicates a part or all of the use permitted under the first condition and indicates whether the license information is valid or invalid based on a logical product of the first condition and said second condition;

a license generation unit operable to generate the license information including the first condition and the second condition in response to a license obtainment request from the user terminal; and

a license issuance unit operable to issue the generated license information to the user terminal so that said user terminal obtains said license information.

18.   **(Currently Amended)** The right management server according to Claim 17, further comprising:

a license issuing unit configured to issue the license information according to a request from said user terminal,

wherein the user terminal includes an issuing request unit configured to request said right management server for issuing the license information, and a storing unit that stores a license issued by the rights management server.

a return acceptance unit operable to accept, from the user terminal, return of the license information which is judged to be invalid;

an invalidation cancellation unit operable to cancel invalidation of the license information by updating the second condition included in the returned license information to a new value; and

a reissuance unit operable to reissue, to the user terminal, the license information of which invalidation is cancelled.

19.   **(Currently Amended)** The right management server according to Claim 18,

wherein the second condition generation updating unit includes a rule storage unit operableconfigured to previously store a rule for generating updating the second condition, and

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the ~~second condition generation~~ updating unit ~~generates~~ updates the second condition according to the rule stored in the rule storage unit.

20.   **(Currently Amended)** The right management server according to Claim 19,

wherein the rule is defined for each use right of each content, and

the ~~second condition generation~~ updating unit ~~generates~~ updates the second condition for each license information according to the rule.

21.   **(Currently Amended)** The right management server according to Claim 19,

wherein the rule is defined uniformly for any use right, and

the ~~second condition generation~~ updating unit ~~generates~~ updates the second condition uniformly for any license information according to the rule.

22.   **(Currently Amended)** A user ~~terminal~~ terminal, comprising:

~~connected with a right management server via a communication network for obtaining license information from the right management server and using a content based on the obtained license information, said license information permitting a user to use the content, said terminal comprising:~~

a storing unit configured to store license information which includes first condition information and second condition information, the first condition information indicating a first usage condition for the use of a content, and the second condition information being information for limiting the first usage condition;

a judging unit configured to judge whether or not the license information is valid, by checking whether or not a limited first condition is satisfied, the limited first condition being the first condition having been limited according to the second condition information;

a using unit configured to use the content according to the limited first condition when the license information is judged to be valid;

a requesting unit configured to (i) send the license information including both of the first condition information and the second condition information to a right management server, when

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the license information is judged to be invalid, and (ii) receive an updated license information from the right management server, the updated license information including the first condition information included in the license information and a second condition information having been updated by the right information having been updated by right management server.

~~a license obtainment requesting unit operable to request the right management server to issue the license information so as to obtain said license information;~~

~~an invalidity judgment unit operable to judge whether the license information is invalid or not based on a first condition and a second condition included in the obtained license information, said first condition being a condition for permitting the user to use the content based on a content use right owned by the user, said second condition indicating a part or all of the use permitted under the first condition and indicating whether the license information is valid or invalid based on a logical product of the first condition and said second condition;~~

~~a using unit operable to provide the use of the content to the user when it is judged that the license information is not invalid; and~~

~~a license information returning unit operable to return the license information to the right management server when it is judged that the license information is invalid.~~

23.   **(Currently Amended)** The user terminal according to Claim 22,

wherein ~~the~~ said using unit includes a condition updating unit ~~operable~~configured to update each of the first condition and the second condition to a new value obtained by subtracting a value of the use right which is consumed under the provision of the use, every time the content is used.

24.   **(Currently Amended)** The user terminal according to Claim 22,

wherein the license information includes an item of a usage amount into which the number of actual uses of the content is recorded with a default value being 0, when the content is used based on the license information,

the second condition indicates a value which is a number of permitted uses of the content,

the ~~invalidity judgment~~ judging unit judges whether or not the license information is

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invalid or not valid by comparing between a the value of indicated by the second condition and a the value of the item of the usage amount, both of which are included in said license information, and

the said using unit includes a usage amount calculation unit operableconfigured to increment the number of actual uses recorded in the item of the usage amount by an amount of an actual use, every time the content is used.

25.   **(Currently Amended)** The user terminal according to Claim 22, wherein the invalidity judgment judging unit judges whether the license information is invalid or not based on the second condition included in the license information , said second condition having been updated by the right management server, said license information having been returned and reissued.

26.   **(Currently Amended)** The user terminal according to Claim 22, wherein the invalidity judgment judging unit judges whether or not the license information is invalid or not valid every time power is applied to the user terminal.

27.   **(Currently Amended)** A right management method in a right management server connected with a user terminal via a communication network for issuing license information to the user terminal so that the user terminal obtains the license information, said license information permitting a user to use a content, said right management method comprising:

storing license information which includes first condition information and second condition information, the first condition information indicating a first usage condition for the use of a content, and the second condition information being information for limiting the first usage condition;

judging whether or not the license information is valid, by checking whether or not a limited first condition is satisfied, the limited first condition being the first condition having been limited according to the information indicated by the second condition information;

using the content according to a limited first condition when the license information is

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judged to be valid;

requesting to (i) send the license information including both of the first condition information and the second condition information to the right management server, when the license information is judged to be invalid, and (ii) receive and updated license information from the right management server, the updated license information including the first condition information included in the license information and a second condition information updated by the right management server; and

updating by (i) receiving the license information from the user terminal, and (ii) updating the second condition information of the license information to thereby generate the updated license information; and

sending the updated license information to said user terminal.

~~a first condition generation step of generating a first condition based on a content use right owned by the user, said first condition being a condition for permitting the user to use the content;~~

~~a second condition generation step of generating a second condition that indicates a part or all of the use permitted under the first condition and indicates whether the license information is valid or invalid based on a logical product of the first condition and said second condition;~~

~~a license generation step of generating the license information including the first condition and the second condition in response to a license obtainment request from the user terminal;~~

~~a license issuance step of issuing the generated license information to the user terminal so that said user terminal obtains said license information;~~

~~a return acceptance step of accepting, from the user terminal, return of the license information which is judged to be invalid;~~

~~an invalidation cancellation step of canceling invalidation of the license information by updating the second condition included in the returned license information to a new value; and~~

~~a reissuance step of reissuing, to the user terminal, the license information of which invalidation is cancelled.~~

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28.   **(Currently Amended)** A content using method in a user terminal connected with a right management server via a communication network ~~for obtaining license information from the right management server and using a content based on the obtained license information, said license information permitting a user to use the content~~, said content using method comprising:

said content using method comprising:

storing license information which includes first condition information and second condition information, the first condition information indicating a first usage condition for the use of a content, and the second condition information being information for limiting the first usage condition;

judging whether or not the license information is valid, by checking whether or not the first condition indicated by the first condition information is satisfied even when the first condition is limited according to the second condition information;

a using unit configured to use the content according to the limited first condition when the license information the license information is judged to be valid; and

requesting to (i) send the license information including both of the first condition information and the second condition information to a right management server, when the license information is judged to be invalid, and (ii) receive an updated license information from the right management server, the updated license information including the first condition information included in the license information and a second condition information having been updated by the right management server.

~~a license obtainment requesting step of requesting the right management server to issue the license information so as to obtain said license information;~~

~~an invalidity judgment step of judging whether the license information is invalid or not based on a first condition and a second condition included in the license information, said first condition being a condition for permitting the user to use the content based on a content use right owned by the user, said second condition indicating a part or all of the use permitted under the first condition and indicating whether the license information is valid or invalid based on a logical product of the first condition and said second condition;~~

~~a using step of providing the use of the content to the user when it is judged that the license information is not invalid; and~~

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29.   **(Currently Amended)** A program stored on a computer-readable storage medium for a right management server connected with a user terminal via a communication network for issuing license information to the user terminal so that the user terminal obtains the license information, said license information permitting a user to use a content, said the program causing a computer to execute the following steps:

storing license information which includes first condition information and second condition information, the first condition information indicating a first usage condition for the use of a content, and the second condition information being information for limiting the first usage condition;

judging whether or not the license information is valid, by checking whether or not a limited first condition is satisfied, the limited first condition being the first condition having been limited according to the information indicated by the second condition information;

using the content according to a limited first condition when the license information is judged to be valid;

requesting to (i) send the license information including both of the first condition information and the second condition information to the right management server, when the license information is judged to be invalid, and (ii) receive and updated license information from the right management server, the updated license information including the first condition information included in the license information and a second condition information updated by the right management server; and

updating by (i) receiving the license information from the user terminal, and (ii) updating the second condition information of the license information to thereby generate the updated license information; and

sending the updated license information to said user terminal.

a first condition generation step of generating a first condition based on a content use

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right owned by the user, said first condition being a condition for permitting the user to use the content;

a second condition generation step of generating a second condition that indicates a part or all of the use permitted under the first condition and indicates whether the license information is valid or invalid based on a logical product of the first condition and said second condition;

a license generation step of generating the license information including the first condition and the second condition in response to a license obtainment request from the user terminal;

a license issuance step of issuing the generated license information to the user terminal so that said user terminal obtains said license information;

a return acceptance step of accepting, from the user terminal, return of the license information which is judged to be invalid;

an invalidation cancellation step of canceling invalidation of the license information by updating the second condition included in the returned license information to a new value; and

a reissuance step of reissuing, to the user terminal, the license information of which invalidation is cancelled.

30.   **(Currently Amended)** A program stored on a computer-readable storage medium for a user terminal connected with a right management server via a communication network for obtaining license information from the right management server and using a content based on the obtained license information, said license information permitting a user to use the content, said the program causing a computer to execute the following steps:

storing license information which includes first condition information and second condition information, the first condition information indicating a first usage condition for the use of a content, and the second condition information being information for limiting the first usage condition;

judging whether or not the license information is valid, by checking whether or not a limited first condition is satisfied, the limited first condition being the first condition having been limited according to the second condition information;

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a using unit configured to use the content according to the limited first condition when the license information the license information is judged to be valid; and

requesting to (i) send the license information including both of the first condition information and the second condition information to a right management server, when the license information is judged to be invalid, and (ii) receive an updated license information from the right management server, the updated license information including the first condition information included in the license information and a second condition information having been updated by the right information updated by the right management server.

a license obtainment requesting step of requesting the right management server to issue the license information so as to obtain said license information;

an invalidity judgment step of judging whether the license information is invalid or not based on a first condition and a second condition included in the license information, said first condition being a condition for permitting the user to use the content based on a content use right owned by the user, said second condition indicating a part or all of the use permitted under the first condition and indicating whether the license information is valid or invalid based on a logical product of the first condition and said second condition;

a using step of providing the use of the content to the user when it is judged that the license information is not invalid; and

a license information returning step of returning the license information to the right management server when it is judged that the license information is invalid.

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